

Book Policy Manual
Section 100 Programs
Title Age Appropriate Standards applicable to Policy 108 Textbooks and Policy 109 Resource Materials
Code 109.1
Status Draft

Purpose

The Board is aware that textbooks and supplementary materials in the district are to be used almost exclusively by minors. The Board is also aware that the options for materials available to support and enrich the curriculum of the district are vast. However, there is only a finite amount of time to teach students, only a finite amount of space in the curriculum, and only a finite amount of money to purchase materials. It is necessary that the district prioritize materials that enrich the curriculum and advance the pedagogical interest over material that may similarly enrich curriculum but which also expose minor students to certain age-inappropriate content.

Guidelines

Sexualized content that falls short of material prohibited by criminal laws is nonetheless generally inappropriate and/or unnecessary for minors in school. As such, the District will prioritize inclusion of quality materials suitable for educational goals and worthwhile for the limited amount of time available to students that do not contain sexualized content. The following sets forth objective district standards governing age-inappropriate sexualized materials. Borderline cases may still arise where a judgment call must be made, and administrators will use their professional discretion in applying the policy to such instances.

Definitions

Sexual acts are defined as sexual intercourse, masturbation, sadism, masochism, bestiality, fellatio, cunnilingus, exhibition of genitals or nudity if such nudity is depicted for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification, or any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts. [1][2]

Implied nudity – Depictions that imply a person is not wearing clothing, particularly where private areas are strategically covered or not shown but where such depictions draw the viewers' attention to the person's private areas.

Implied sex act- Depictions where a sex act itself is not explicitly shown, but rather is visually depicted as about to occur, as occurring, or as having just occurred.

High School

The superintendent shall not select textbooks per policy 108 [3] or supplementary resource materials per policy 109 [4] containing:

1. Visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts.
2. Explicit written descriptions of sexual acts, except for the purpose of teaching students to avoid and report molestation or educating about the procreative sex act for purposes of science and health instruction.

Other sexualized content: In selecting textbooks or supplemental resource materials for high school students, the superintendent shall seek to prioritize materials that do not contain other sexualized content, even though permitted, such as visual depictions of nudity.

When seeking approval from the board for high school textbooks or supplementary resource materials containing permitted sexualized content, the superintendent or designee must notify the board that such material is present and if requested by the board, offer potential alternative options to the board which cover similar pedagogical purposes for the resource but which do not contain the aforementioned content.

Parental consent must be obtained for high school students before using any textbooks or supplementary resource materials containing permitted sexualized content.

Middle School

The superintendent shall not select textbooks per policy 108 [2] or supplementary resource materials per policy 109 [3] containing:

1. visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts,
2. explicit written descriptions of sexual acts, except for the purposes of teaching students to avoid and report molestation or educating about the procreative sex act for purposes of science and health instruction,
3. visual depictions of nudity - not including diagrams for educating about anatomy for science and health instruction, breastfeeding, or classical works of art.

Other sexualized content: In selecting textbooks or supplemental materials for middle school students, the superintendent shall seek to prioritize materials that do not contain other sexualized content, even though permitted, such as non-explicit descriptions of sexual acts or implied depictions of nudity.

When seeking approval from the board for any middle school textbooks or supplementary resource materials containing such content, the superintendent or designee must notify the board that such material is present and if requested by the board, offer potential

alternative options to the board which cover similar pedagogical purposes for the resource but which do not contain the aforementioned content.

Parental consent must be obtained for middle school students before using any textbooks or supplementary resource materials containing permitted sexualized content.

Elementary School

The superintendent shall not select textbooks per policy 108 [2] or supplementary resource materials per policy 109 [3] containing:

1. visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts,
2. explicit written descriptions of sexual acts,
3. non-explicit written descriptions of sexual acts, except for the purposes of teaching students to avoid and report molestation,
4. visual depictions of nudity or implied nudity - not including diagrams for educating about anatomy for science and health instruction or breastfeeding.

Parental consent must be obtained for elementary school students before using any textbooks or supplementary resource materials containing non-explicit written descriptions of sexual acts for the purposes of teaching students to avoid or report molestation and any diagrams for educating about anatomy for purposes of science and health instruction.

1. 18 Pa.C.S. § 3101
2. 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(g)
3. Pol. 108
4. Pol. 109